

**Community Development Block Grant
Public Hearing
Ackermann Room, City Hall
February 13, 2002
Summary of Public Testimony**

Joe Finn – *Shelter Inc.*

- Shelters have become an accepted form of housing.
- 312 Homeless families in motels.
- Shelters at 122% of capacity.
- General need for housing for the very poor.
- Set aside for those earning 30% of the median income.
- Housing collaboration with Human Services to utilize McKinney Funds.
- See attachment for details

Leity & Clergy – *North Cambridge*

- Echoed the need for transitional housing alternatives to a system of Permanent Shelters.

Carol Keeseck – *Transition House for Battered Women*

- Called for a need for permanent assisted housing and transitional housing for battered women.
- Spoke of the battered women who “who would be homeless if they could leave..”, and how these women, and their children, need to have assisted housing options beyond what exists.
- Inquired about the VFW building on Massachusetts Avenue in North Cambridge that is up for sale. Stated their interest in partnering with owners of building to provide Transitional Housing for battered women and their children. It was relayed to them that status and usage of the building was unknown at the present time.

Fred Berman – *DHSP*

- Proposed the creation of a Not-for-Profit business that would provide affordable tech support for local non-profits and small businesses that are too small to have in-house expertise and cannot afford market rate tech support. (see attachment for more detail).
- Also proposed the creation of a Not-for-Profit business that would provide entry level employment of residents with certain employment barriers. The business would be an umbrella for two or three smaller business providing such services as housecleaning, chimney sweeping, dog-walking and pet care. (see attachment for details).

Daniel Curly – *Cambridge Cares About Aids (CCA)*

- Utilizing HOPWA funds to create affordable housing units.

- Mr. Curly spoke of the discrepancy between HUD's "Fair Market Rent" and the average Social Security Income – which creates an environment where SSI recipients are forced out of the City. (see attachment for details).
- Asked that the City consider adding project set-asides for people with HIV/AIDS to the list of community needs.

Lorraine Lavoie & Priscilla Malone – Tenants

- Stated that there is a need in Cambridge for more permanent and transitional housing units for the homeless.

Second Round of Public Hearing & Comments

The City of Cambridge, through its Community Development Department, made the One-Year Action Plan for Fiscal 2003 available to the public for review and comment. The City held a Public Hearing on April 16th at City Hall, and delivered printed copies of the Plan (with necessary contact information) to all branches of the Cambridge Public Library.

The City received no comments during this period. The City takes this lack of public comment to mean an acceptance and approval of the City's actions as relayed in the One-Year Action Plan.

PUBLIC MEETING ATTENDEES

1. Lorraine Lavoie

Tenant – 929 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge.

2. Joe Finn

Shelter, Inc. – Executive Director

3. Priscilla Malone

Tenant - One Newport Road, Cambridge.

4. Fred Berman

DHSP – CEP Program Director / Continuum of Care Planner

5. Sue (sic)

DHSP – OED

6. Julyan Cowan

DHSP – Planner

7. Carol Keesack

Transition House

8. Elisabeth Velendevian

Transition House – Executive Director

9. David Pearson

Shawmut Education – Executive Director

10. Margaret Studier

LCAH, IA, PSNA